



December 19, 2001

Renatta Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street, NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing this letter to you in support of the Consent Decree proposed by the Department of Justice in the case of US v. Microsoft and pursuant to the Tunney Act, which allows public comment on such matters. I believe the settlement proposed by the Department of Justice is fair and should be accepted by the court.

I work in the technology industry and have watched this case very closely since it first began some three years ago. Though I didn't agree with all of the assertions made by Microsoft's competition, there was some validity to their position. It was important to have the issue heard in a court of law and allow the facts to come out. But when Judge Jackson pushed for breaking up Microsoft and the hi-tech industry started a rapid decline, I felt the case had gotten out of hand. It is now time to resolve the matter and move forward.

The settlement proposed by the Department of Justice should be accepted because it is fair. The remedies proposed in the settlement will address future issues and are adept at fixing any challenges which may arise from rapid technological innovation. It ensures competition by forcing Microsoft to disclose information on the operating system. They can no longer enter into agreements of exclusivity and they cannot retaliate against manufacturers for helping to develop competing software.

The current agreement proposed by the Department of Justice will remedy past violations by Microsoft while ensuring the technology industry remains innovative and competitive. Solutions being suggested by Microsoft's competitors will not make the industry more competitive.

Though I realize closure is not the issue for the courts, I do hope they will take into account what settling the case against Microsoft will mean to the technology industry. As this case drags on, so does the insecurity of the hi-tech industry.

I currently work for a dot-com company. Since the day Judge Jackson ordered a break up, things have not been the same. Because many in our industry are nervous about the

impact to Microsoft, our ability to plan for the future is difficult. If US v. Microsoft is settled, we will get back some sense of security in our industry. It is the sort of boost we desperately need right now.

As I mentioned before, the case against Microsoft may have been justified in the beginning. But Judge Jackson, the break up, and the extreme politicizing practiced by competitors has caused the issue to get completely out of hand. The settlement is a fair and prudent one. I hope the courts will accept it and end the case so we in the hi-tech industry can restart the expansion where it left off.

Sincerely,



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